

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 10834 032027Z

13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /171 W

----- 026206

R 032007Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8856

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS PARIS 10834

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ECON, FR, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN IMPORT CONTROL MEASURES

1. SMALL INTERMINISTERIAL MEETING HELD THIS MORNING UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER TO DISCUSS ITALIAN DECISION TO PLACE CONTROLS ON LARGE VOLUME OF IMPORTS. MEETING ATTENDED BY FONMIN JOBERT, MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY, AND FINANCE MINISTER GISCARD D'ESTAING'S OFFICE DIRECTOR.

2. AFTER CONCLUSION OF MEETING, JOBERT WAS ASKED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 PARIS 10834 032027Z

PRESS WHAT FRANCE WOULD HAVE DONE HAD SHE BEEN IN

THE SAME SITUATION. JOBERT REPLIED, "WE ALREADY HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA SINCE, IN 1968, WE WERE REQUIRED TO TAKE A NUMBER OF DECISIONS DUE TO OUR INTERNAL SITUATION, AND WE HAD RECOURSE TO ARTICLE 108 OF THE ROME TREATY, CALLING FOR PRELIMINARY COMMUNITY COORDINATION. MOREOVER, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY RECOGNIZED THAT NOT WITHSTANDING THIS COORDINATION, WE WERE JUSTIFIED IN TAKING UNILATERAL MEASURES FORESEEN BY ARTICLE 108. HOWEVER, THERE HAD BEEN PRELIMINARY COORDINATION."

3. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ABOUT FINANCIAL AID BY ITALY'S 8 PARTNERS, JOBERT REPLIED, "ASK THOSE WHO HAVE LOTS OF MONEY." AGRICULTURE MINISTER MARCELLIN, WHO ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING, INFORMED THE PRESS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED ON A POSITION FOR NEXT TUESDAY'S EC DISCUSSION COVERING THE ITALIAN MEASURES. MARCELLIN SAID THE GOF APPROACH WOULD BE TO DISCUSS WITH ITALY THE APPLICATION OF ARTICLES 108 AND 109. THE GOF APPROACH WILL ATTEMPT TO RECONCILE THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE ITALIANS WITH ITALY'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE TREATY OF ROME.

4. IN RADIO BROADCAST TODAY, JOBERT MADE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL COMMENT: "THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE ITALIANS WILL INCREASE THE PRICE OF OUR CARS BY AT LEAST THREE PERCENT. AS FAR AS VEAL AND BEEF EXPORTS ARE CONCERNED, IF THEY ARE AFFECTED, WE WILL HAVE TO EXAMINE THE ITALIAN MEASURES VERY CAREFULLY AT NEXT TUESDAY'S EC COUNCIL OF MINISTER'S MEETING. WE SHALL EXAMINE THE SITUATION TO SEE IF IT FALLS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ARTICLE 109. WE WILL SEE IF IT IS A UNILATERAL ACTION TAKEN BY THE ITALIANS OR IF, ON THE CONTRARY, WE ARE ABLE TO OFFER MUTUAL, TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO ITALY, WHICH IS IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION."
IRWIN

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